



READING POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

James W. Cormier
Chief of Police

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MuckRock News
Dept MR 2161
Attn: Mr. Shawn Musgrave
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

December 6, 2012

Dear Mr. Musgrave:

This is an initial response to your Freedom of Information Act request dated November 26, 2012, which was received by this office via e-mail for "All documents relating to usage of Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology by Reading Police Department."

This letter acknowledges that we have received your request and provides basic information about the Reading Police Department's use of ALPR technology as well as some administrative information. We have begun to process your request and will provide a more substantive response to you shortly.

As you may know, the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security offered a series of grants for the purchase of ALPR technology. In 2011 the Reading Police Department applied for and was awarded grant funding for the purchase of a MPH-900-X2AD3 SPLIT TRANS unit from ELSAG-North America. Documents relating to the scope of the Reading Police Department's use of ALPR fall within the internal deployment practices and strategies of the department and are therefore exempt from disclosure. However, broadly speaking, I am able to report that the Reading Police Department currently employs the above referenced ALPR unit in a patrol capacity to enhance our ability to detect criminal motor vehicle infractions.

We currently do not share ALPR image data with any other government agency. ALPR data is currently stored locally on a laptop and automatically overwritten according to the default settings of the software, which is a period of about 30 to 45 days.

Any documents which are not exempted under the Massachusetts Public Records Law will be forwarded to you via the U.S. Postal Service and appropriate reproduction fees will not be waived. The estimated cost associated with your request is \$120.00. The lowest paid employee capable of doing the work has a rate of \$19.09 per hour and I expect there will be 50 pages of documents at 50¢ per page. Once the Department has received a certified cashier's check for said amount, we will begin to reproduce the required records.

Please note, your request has been assigned Case Number 546841. All correspondence related to your request should include the above case number. Future communications on this issue should be addressed directly to me through mail, e-mail, telephone or fax. My contact information is listed in the header at the top of the page.

Sincerely,


James W. Cormier
Chief of Police